

resilient buttons **342** that allow entry of information onto the screen **328**. In particular, when the overlay is positioned on or over the screen **328**, the screen **328** is active to receive input from a particular button **342** in the same or similar manner as the screen **328** would receive input from the touch of a finger or writing by a stylus. In one form, the buttons **342** form a keypad that is "oversize" with respect to a traditional keypad. The keypad allows entry of a PIN or the like. In this manner the overlay provides a user with a disability an easier manner of entering a PIN or other information, depending on the configuration of the overlay, the type of buttons, and/or the screen functionality when the overlay is positioned thereon. When the overlay **340** is not positioned over the screen **328**, the screen **328** may provide a traditional touch-screen keypad mode for input of a PIN or other information, provide a signature capture area mode of operation, or the like. The overlay **340** is preferably coupled to the housing **322** via a hinge **348** or the like that allows the overlay **340** to be positioned over the screen **328** and positioned away from the screen **328**. A sensor or the like (not shown) may be provided to indicate the position of the overlay **340** with respect to the screen **328**.

[0082] According to another aspect of the present invention, the overlay **340** may have tactile indicia such as Braille either on the particular button **342** (as depicted with respect to the numbered buttons) or adjacent a button **342** (as depicted with respect to the unlabeled buttons). This provides further ease of recognition and/or operation for a visually impaired individual. In one form, the tactile indicia may be provided adjacent each button **342** while a traditional raised dot on the "5" button may be used. Of course, other schemes are acceptable.

[0083] Referring to FIG. 15, the overlay **340** is shown in greater detail. The overlay **340** utilizes rubber dome technology to form the buttons **342**. A sheet **344** of a resilient material such as rubber is formed with a plurality of domes each of which corresponds to a button **342**. The buttons **342** formed by the resilient sheet **344** bounce back to their original position after being pushed or depressed. This provides a positive feel for a user to indicate that a button has been pressed. As such with rubber dome technology, each dome or button **342** has a ceramic bead or pad **346** on an underside thereof that is adapted to contact the screen **328** when the respective button **342** is depressed.

[0084] In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, when a button **342** is depressed, the SCT **320** produces or generates audio feedback for the user via the speaker **332** and/or a set of headphones plugged into the headphone jack **334**. Such audio feedback may include simple audio monotones when the buttons **342** make contact with the screen **328**, voice synthesized speech, or touchtone emulation.

[0085] The various signature capture terminals (SCTs) shown and described above have common capabilities with respect to the common components. It should be appreciated the SCTs shown and described above all include an aspect of functionality that permits the SCT to be more easily used by a disabled individual. Some provide easier access to the existing functionality of the SCT by a disabled individual. In view of this, the following capabilities of the common components of the various SCTs described above will now be described.

[0086] The screen or display of the SCT is preferably a high-resolution display that can display character contrast ratios greater than seven to one (7 to 1) and character sizes larger than 24 minutes of arc. The SCT may include screen magnification program instructions to enlarge the information presented on the display. This feature may be selectable by the user in a variety of manners such as by the display, as a separate button on the SCT, or the like. The SCT may also include scalable graphic display program instructions that permit reformatting of display information (e.g. text) for readability. This includes reformatting of text size as well as screen color (text and background, contrast and the like) for color blind and/or low vision users. Again, this feature may be selectable by the user in a variety of manners.

[0087] Additionally, the headphone jack may provide audio to a set of headphones plugged therein in a stereo format. In addition to text-to-speech and other audio formats as described above, multiple languages may be provided as part of the text-to-speech. Other audio formats for specific disabilities may be provided. As well, the port (e.g. a USB port) of the SCT may be used to connect the SCT into a host terminal such as a POS, PC, or the like.

[0088] Finally, the SCT may provide an additional level of security through PIN encryption. Thus, PIN entry via a disability access device, and even a typical PIN entry keypad, will include encryption. The various features, modes, and/or functionality described herein include a level of security and privacy for disabled users of the SCT, through the disability access devices including audio enhanced navigation, audio feedback, enhanced display navigation, and others.

[0089] It should be appreciated that the various features, modes, and/or functions of the various embodiments of a signature capture terminal as shown and described herein may be combined with one another to form various combinations. As well, the various embodiments of the signature capture terminals may be incorporated into other electronic devices, or those electronic devices shown and described herein as already incorporating a signature capture terminal may be used for other purposes.

[0090] While this invention has been described as having a preferred design and/or configuration, the present invention can be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains and which fall within the limits of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A signature capture terminal comprising:

a signature capture area operative to receive a signature of a user; and

an audio generator operative to produce audio feedback to the user in response to receipt of the signature, the audio feedback correlated to input of the signature.

2. The signature capture terminal of claim 1, wherein the audio feedback comprises an audio signal having a characteristic thereof that varies in correlation to the input of the signature.